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BOOK REVIEWS

A FIRST COURSE IN STATISTICS. By D. Caradog Jones. G. Bell & Sons, London, 1921. Pp. viii, 286. Price, 15s. net.

The author of this book explains in his preface that "the whole is meant not as an exhaustive treatise, but merely as a first course introducing the reader to more serious works." His aim is to a great extent sociological, to teach the non-expert to understand and apply correctly such statistics as occur in ordinary life; at the same time he considers that the book may be of service in the sciences, since the principles are fundamentally the same. The science of statistics is based upon the study of the crowd rather than of the individual; hence we find on page 11 an explanation of the idea of Frequency Distribution, followed immediately by a chapter on Classification and Tabulation. We then have the fundamental ideas of average, median, mode and weighted mean fully explained; and their applications and characteristics are illustrated by wellchosen examples. Chapter VI discusses Dispersion or Variability, and in this the root-mean-square deviation is introduced tentatively, the proof being given later. The next chapter deals with the plotting of frequency distribution curves and the symmetry or skewness (lack of symmetry) of the curves obtained; it is followed by chapters on graphs treated more mathematically. There is next given an important chapter on Correlation, followed by illustrative examples of a sociological nature, such as the correlation between overcrowding and infant mortality in London districts, between unskilled wages and rents, and so on; and this brings Part I of the volume to a close. The whole of this part should be well within the understanding of the general reader; and the clear exposition, if at times somewhat lengthy, has much to recommend it. Part II starts by introducing the reader to Probability and Sampling, with many good illustrative examples. This is followed by over fifty pages on "curve fitting," and a couple of chapters on the normal curve of error and the frequency surface for correlated variables; and the book closes with an appendix containing some mathematical proofs of a more difficult nature.

In all, a very excellent text-book, which should have a place of its own more especially with the general reader; its weak point is the somewhat (to a mathematical reader) cumbrous nature of some of the work in the second part, which must, however, be excused owing to the professed aim of the author—that he is writing an introduction to the subject for the general reader. This general reader of course includes the scientist whose mathematical reading is not of an advanced order.

MIND AND WORK; THE PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS IN INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE. By C. S. Myers, M.A., M.D., Sc.D., F.R.S. London: University of London Press, 1920. Pp. xii, 204. Price, 6s.

A lucid account of the relation to human efficiency of fatigue and of well or ill-arranged rest periods; of monotony and variety of occupation; of compatibility and incompatibility of temperament and vocation; of the speed and noise of machinery; of piece-work, day-work, and overtime; and of irritation and goodwill between employers and employees.

The author intends his book as a plea for the establishment of a National Institute of Industrial Psychology in which the conditions for the wisest and most economical application of the human element in the work of production and exchange could be studied impartially and scientifically. The case is convincingly put. Notable examples of what has already been done by scientific methods to increase the efficiency and well-being of those engaged in industry are given, with several photographs by way of concrete illustration. There is little doubt that an industrial system organized in accordance with such principles as those outlined in this book would be much more stable than the present one. Dr. Myers' volume deserves, therefore, the close and earnest attention of our industrial leaders and social reformers.

FRANK WATTS.

KARL MARX ON VALUE. By J. W. Scott. London: A. & C. Black, Ltd. Pp. vii, 54. Price, 3s. 6d. net.

This little book, by the Professor of Philosophy at Cardiff University College, is a brief summary of Marx's Theory of Value and of the chief arguments that have been brought against it. It is written in very simple language, which sometimes approaches what Mr. Caliban would call "the prattling style." But it makes no claim to originality either of idea or of manner of presentation, and it is, of course, very far from exhaustive of the subject.

G. C. FIELD.

THE PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY OF THE STATE. By Bernard Bosanquet. Third Edition. London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd. Pp. 1xii, 320. Price, 15s. net.

A third edition of Mr. Bosanquet's famous work is very welcome. The additions made are not great but of considerable interest. A few footnotes are added, and there are seventeen new pages in the introduction on "How the Theory stands in 1919." Mr. Bosanquet claims that there is nothing in recent events or recent movements which would necessitate the abandonment or modification of any of his views. Certainly a re-reading of the present work can only confirm previous impression of its depth and significance. It is a work of permanent importance today as much as on the day that it first appeared. But for all that, one feels a certain doubt whether Mr. Bosanquet has succeeded in taking quite sufficiently seriously certain recent movements of thought, particularly in the direction of a criticism of the claims of the state as against other institutions. It is not always perfectly evident that he realizes the possibility of real differences of principle on this point.

G. C. FIELD.